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ABLE TOGETHER

an international quarterly newsletter serving gay and bisexual disabled and disability-aware abled men

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Two A-T flyers accompany this issue
of the newsletter;
please keep them to pass on to
someone who might like to know about A-T!

THE MASTHEAD

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

WHO NEEDS ABLE-TOGETHER?

"I have a boyfriend. Give the flyer to someone who needs it."

"I want a flyer to send to the cute CP guy I met at the retreat; but I don't think he needs A-T. He was fighting off all these abled guys the entire time."

"Oh, I've not really sat down to read the editorials. I've just gone through the ads."

What these comments seem to have in common is a presumption that the purpose or "use" of ABLE-TOGETHER is to help men in our population find a partner for a friendship or intimate relationship. So far so good. And this is certainly something that we hope happens for you; it is certainly the salient and original reason for the existence of A-T, which traces its origins to the late 1970's and the enterprise of a polio-disabled young gay man in search of a partner. And sometimes you write to us to tell us about the good time you had with someone you met through the A-T personals. But how good is it, and what use has A-T been when, upon the expiry of your subscription...*your partner search/friend find is still unfulfilled?* To the extent that you had a need, did ABLE-TOGETHER meet it? Do you renew?

Do you take the optimistic view of the Michigan subscriber (*see letters page 11*) who sent in his renewal check early? Or are you more inclined to side with the New York subscriber who sees no point in continuing with A-T if his experience of corresponding the personals does not improve? What makes membership of A-T declarably enjoyable for the one and equally clearly not the other, in spite of their apparently actually very similar experiences of cruising the personal contact ads?

In a recent revision of the ABLE-TOGETHER press release and informational flyer we hit upon the following statement of purpose for the editorial section of the newsletter: *A-T seeks to discuss current and disability issues from a perspective which emphasizes the generation of positive feeling in interpersonal relationships.*

Our hope is that your response to *something* you read in A-T during the course of your subscription will be to change your lived experience for the better; to find the ability to *feel differently* about a particular relational matrix that comes up in your life. Perhaps (and this is of course wonderful for us when we get this feedback) it will be something Jonathan or Blaine or I have written that will so move you; or perhaps it will be something out of the journey of another subscriber as shared in these pages; perhaps one of the ongoing discussions on our letters pages - in this issue we take an initial look at replying to personal contact ad replies - will supply a missing piece for you; or perhaps, as one subscriber told me recently, just *reading* the ads will give you some new handle on something in your self, a new handle that

will give you some "leverage" that you didn't have before, perhaps in an interaction with someone you contact through A-T - or quite possibly with someone you meet outside A-T.

SO WHO "NEEDS" ABLE-TOGETHER?

We do not know, but we *imagine* there may be people who need ABLE-TOGETHER; for instance, many of you have written movingly to us about coming out as disabled-and-gay and how helpful it would have been for you if you had come across A-T at this crucial time in the ongoing development of your self and self-image - and we can imagine there are many, many people right now who might find A-T useful in this way. Having imagined you, we hope we reach you and that we are of help and use to you when we do - perhaps you may be able to draw on something from Jonathan's bike ride, elsewhere in this issue, from *can't do* into *can do.*

And then we hope that you stop needing ABLE-TOGETHER and start simply *wanting us to be a part of your life.* The comments of a New Jersey and a Canadian subscriber have helped renew our focus on a question we ask ourselves a lot: *who is A-T's population?* Men who are bisexual/gay *and* have a disability. Men who are gay/bisexual *and* are aware of or impacted by disability. *Men for whom "disability" is part of the context in which you live your lives* and who are interested in reaching out, exploring, reflecting, sharing, growing interpersonally. As these two subscribers have pointed out, A-T's population swells as men get older; as we become disabled; as we recognize our sexual attraction to other men; as we become interested in who we are, and in becoming more comfortable with who we are, a topic Blaine addresses elsewhere in this issue.

And ABLE-TOGETHER's population swells - and grays - as A-T indeed becomes a part of life for many of you. It is wonderful for us to note how many renewals are from men whose association with us goes back to A-T's first incarnation as Jarrod International. Your "way of life" renewals are the best possible feedback to our endeavors; and when such renewals come from younger men, men in your twenties or early thirties, perhaps from men whom we understand to be reasonably cute and well-settled *[gasp!]* in partner- and friend-relationships, then it is particularly clear to us that we are doing it right in creating something that is welcomed for its positive contribution to your lived experience in relationship where disability is a part of the context.

We do not know who needs A-T. We do very much hope that all of you in our population will want and welcome A-T in your lives because of your experience that *ABLE-TOGETHER can make a difference.*

Readers old and new are very, very welcome to this edition of the ABLE-TOGETHER newsletter.

-- Peter Hegedus

DREDGING MY WELL OF LONELINESS AND FINDING MYSELF

-- Blaine Waterman

Do you ever buy a book only to read just half of it, then move on to something else? I must confess to doing this frequently. One book I gave this shabby treatment to last year was *Intimate Connections: The New and Clinically Tested Program for Overcoming Loneliness* by University of Pennsylvania psychiatrist David Burns. I did read enough, however, to recommend it enthusiastically to anyone who has a problem with feeling lonely. I've struggled with loneliness and sexual frustration for much of my adult life, though it's only been recently that I've been able to admit that to myself. Some of the ideas in this excellent book have helped me accept my love/sex allocation when it wasn't what I was wanting, and they may very well continue to help me improve this situation.

The book's central insight is that loneliness is a *state of mind* which has little to do with how many friends and lovers you have, if any. There are guys with hundreds of friends and plenty of sex who feel very lonely. And there are others who only have their cat and a TV set for friends who *don't* feel lonely. As I understand the book's message, and feel in myself, **we feel the pain of loneliness when we don't feel worthy of love and fear not getting any, or losing whatever we do have.**

A thought experiment from the book makes this a little clearer. Suppose you were stuck on the proverbial desert island by yourself, a comfy desert island where you're not worried about starvation or attack by tigers. What could you do with yourself? There's nobody to play with! But that's both a problem and an opportunity. A problem, because most of us aren't good at amusing ourselves alone. An opportunity, because our aloneness has nothing to do with what *other people* may or may not think of us. We're by ourselves because we're on a desert island. Not because we are (or *believe* we are) less attractive or less appealing in some way. Now I'm on this desert island that internal soundtrack which screams to me about how unworthy I am of friendship and love loses whatever claim to validity it may previously have had. Once I turn down or shut off that perpetually negative tape, I find that there are a million *interesting* ways to divert my self - read a book, eat a pineapple, make sandcastles, look at the stars, etc., etc., etc...

I'm never really alone because, come hell or high water, I always have...me. Don't laugh! I'm the first person I ever knew, and I'll definitely be the last I talk to. We often take our *self* totally for granted: *Go to a movie* ***by myself*** *- are you kidding?!* Worse, we often don't even *like* our selves, and spend lots of energy

trying to make other friends who'll take the focus away from that loser and help us forget he's there.

But he is there, all the time. He'll always be there. And if we take some time to get to know him, we'll find he's *not* a loser. He's our first and potentially best friend. You can do everything together - read, eat, take a walk, go to the movies, even have sex! We may worry about being seen alone with him all the time. *What will people think?* The truth is, they probably won't even notice, and if they do, so what? If you *know* you're a genius and someone calls you stupid, it doesn't hurt very much because it is clear to you that there's something going on for the other guy that makes it necessary for *him* to *imagine* you're stupid. The only way negativity hurts is when we believe it ourselves. So if I'm afraid of so-and-so seeing me at BurgerLand with myself and thinking I'm a weirdo cripple with no friends, whose judgment am I really afraid of? So-and-so's, or mine?

Not so-and-so's!

Not mine?

NEITHER! I am, and I am entitled to be *who I am* and need not fear judgment, *period!*

And...guess what? Sometimes I can manage to feel this way and - sometimes I can't. Maybe I'll go back to the book - and then back to my self - and study more closely. One thing I certainly know is which state I *prefer* to be in; and that, as time goes on, I seem to be *more able* to access this state.

If I *know* I'm a nice fun guy from personal experience, if I can spend quality time by myself and with my self, the "nattering nabobs of negativity", within and without, will need to find new haunts. I can enjoy myself if I happen to be short on company. And, my feeling better about my self can act as a beacon to others, attracting them to me in the same way as overpowering feelings of loneliness can sometimes REPEL others. The message I took from *Intimate Connections* is therefore not simply to accept a solitary life; it's that getting more comfortable with ourselves is both a worthy objective in its own right and a most useful practice for attracting friends and lovers and enjoying ourselves in relationship with them.

Contributing Editor Blaine Waterman, who is disabled, is a librarian living in San Francisco

TAKING MY GRAVITY ON THE ROAD AND SHEDDING UNWANTED POUNDS AND CONCERN

-- Jonathan Farrell

Gravity, that pulling force, is never more evident than when it comes to having a disability.

I have CP and the effect of my weight and motion is that I walk funny; readers of last January's A-T will remember my article *Gravity Pulls Me Forward!* Not so in water (I don't swim funny).

And I ride a bicycle just fine.

I love riding my bike. It gives me a sense of freedom I do not have when just walking. What a discovery! I have a wider range of motion; I can move fast, *as if* running; I can feel the wind flow past me.

Another reason why I enjoy riding so much is that, on my bike, no one can tell that I have a disability; fully geared-up and in neon-color array I am very much like any other bicyclist on the road. I appreciate this chance not to experience the limits I do experience when on foot. I can keep up with the crowd or take an alternate route at will. I can even pass other bicyclists by. It's a great feeling.

I have long been an avid bike rider, more intensely so since the arrival of the mountain-bike and all its accompanying sub-culture in which I enjoy feeling involved. With my bike I can be alongside people, going at their pace, not asking them to go at mine or to wait a minute while I catch up. I am among them and one of them in just about every way - until I dismount.

Are you all right, is everything okay? People on bikes approach with concern in their voices to see the effects of gravity on the dismounted Jonathan. Trying to repress the annoyance in my voice I reply *I'm doing just fine!* I am troubled by the nature of their concern. Do they see me as a person-with-a-disability-needing-assistance? In this case I wouldn't appreciate their concern. Or do they imagine me to be reeling from over-exertion, perhaps about to be taken ill? *Bicycling Magazine* says that concern for a fellow rider's apparent trouble on the trail is appropriate bicycling etiquette.

On a bike with the mass flow of people, I am *physical.* I am *in motion* and people see me to be as much in motion, as physical as they are. There is something about being outdoors among all the daily activity of the world; something about sensing and connecting with all the elements of nature that a person does not get when encapsulated in a car, a house, a sofa. It is getting out in the fresh air that does a body good - and for this body

of mine to be on a bike is an exhilarating engagement with living.

Getting into motion.

I am so happy that I do this. I feel so good about it that I want *everyone* to get into motion, be as mobile as you can be. No matter what your ability. As I see it, *any* kind of motion - be it in action (in a wheelchair, on crutches), or even just in thought - *causes a stir* and more engagement with the environment.

I feel the world needs to be stirred positively - and especially by those of us with disabilities. A detached disengagement is not where it's at, right now at any rate, for me. As I see it, administrators, teachers, bosses, health-care providers - even parents, lovers - will willingly set our selves to one side and run our lives for us if we invite them to do so by our failure to cause a stir, to get moving. The Integral Yoga of Sri Aurobindo holds that our body is an *instrument* for interpersonal communication; if we *maintain less mobility than we might* and so watch life pass, can we then have true claim to complain when something about life's passing is not to our liking?

I have spent my lifetime as a disabled male noticing the effect on others of how I move, or do not move my body. The reaction that is most uncomfortable for me is that of gratuitous "concern". Like when I get off the bike. Concern feels threatening to me because I fear that the surface message of *I will be your allied force in society* hides a deeper intent of *I will be an obstacle to you.*

I have learned to deal with concern by rebellion! In polite, creative and even what seems to me desperate ways, I do not give up and give in anymore. I cut a swathe in the world, physically. I move. I get noticed. I make the best effort possible and do as much for myself as I can. In this way I feel my independence of personhood.

Riding my bike helps me to accomplish what I must every time I hop on it. Independently. I enjoy what I can do on my own without relying on others - public transportation included. It's a fulfilling feeling that uplifts me again and again. My experience is that to be independent is not only to take action, be in motion physically, but also to be a *thinker.* In my constant rebellion against what I see as the tyranny of concern I remember that tyrants everywhere fear two things they can't control: physical action - and thinking and the creative process. That's why I say *be as mobile as you can be* in mind and in body!

Mobile...Automobile.

For me, it's my bike - but for society I see the car as being a major concrete symbol of independence. Just as the perfect body is the image of strength and health, the car is closely tied in with virility and a person's independence as an adult. What our culture says to us when we come of age is *if you have a car you are all grown up and on your own.* And, as I see it, although have not experienced it, when we (for instance) become spinal-injured, our culture says *here is your wheelchair and there are the ramps and curb-cuts: go forth.*

It sounds simple enough - but I see society's notion of independence and adult

personhood as fundamentally confused. For me, it is not the means (such as the car or the chair or the bike) but my *will* to be in motion and the *value* to me of being in motion. And might I not also say this - that it is not just the practical ability to be independent but more the *commitment to independence*, the commitment to remain independent myself *and* encourage independence for others, that is most important? To fulfill this commitment at a societal level requires that we be as concerned with what's really going on with a person's self-image as we are with providing the hardware for us to ride, drive or wheel forth.

Why I say this is because, a while back, I was puzzled when I was told by one disabled friend that another disabled friend thought it odd that I - a person with a disability - can and do make a habit of getting around by bike; this person had said: *isn't it* dangerous *for him?*

Et tu, Brute! Even you! I thought that a fellow person with a disability might be cheering me on, not displaying...concern! I wonder if this acquaintance realized what he was saying. Could it be he may not be certain of his own abilities and is fearful for one reason or another to try to ascertain these? Could it be he is stuck in *can't do* mode?

It is a constant struggle for me as a disabled man to invert *can't do* into *can do*. I suspect this may well simply be part of being human *and* I think being disabled makes the stakes higher and the game harder. After all, a meaning of *disabled* is can't do. If I can't see myself doing something then most likely I will not get something done. I will miss out. I therefore, again, come to equate being more mobile with being more fulfilled.

I have come to the ability to see myself in *can do* terms, and this feels good and I strive to project this self-image to counter and change what others imagine of me, to deflect the concern of which I do not wish to be the object.

This is what's going on for me when I stand by my bicycle, all decked out in my bright array.

Contributing Editor Jonathan Farrell, who has CP, is a writer-journalist living in San Francisco.

...I am looking forward to the [next] issue. I have had only a few replies to my ad, but have had a very enjoyable correspondence with two members...

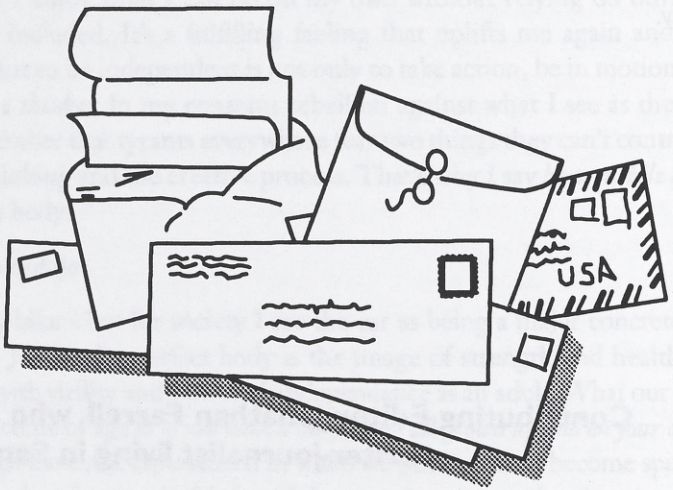
KD, Lake Harbor, FL

...You guys are doing a terrific job. To think of the years I spent languishing in bars abusing alcohol and drugs and hating myself for a condition that shoudn't cause shame. The program works. I will be traveling in England over Christmas and...plan to meet [A-T subscribers] while I'm over there...*Double-woof!*

BR, Austin, TX

...I am also writing to say how disappointed I am in...the ads that are put in by "handicap-friendly" people as well as handicapped people...since last May when I send out my first letter...to last October when I sent out my final letters in response to an ad I have not received an answer from ANYONE. Is everyone as RUDE and UNCARING that they don't feel that they even have to give any response? I have very slight cerebral palsy and I'm 46 years old. When I answered an ad from a person the same age but able-bodied I got no response. I figured that because they were able-bodied and I wasn't they felt they didn't have to answer my letter. But why are their ads in A-T as "handicap-friendly" people? When I answered [ads] from people with disabilities who were in my age bracket I still get no response and I could not figure out WHY? In January, with the new issue I will send out other letters But if I do not get responses...you will not be getting a renewal from me.

A-T subscriber, NY



THE MAIL POUCH

...there are plenty of people in this world who do not [look beneath the surface] when they want someone to share their lives, or companionship. Looking for the "tall or short one, skinny or fat one, with or without hair, blond and with a mustache" and everything in between is always going to be the choice of the young. I was just as guilty in my youth. I have found out, however, as I share experiences with disabled and able-bodied persons in my travels, that it is not what the cover of the book looks like, but rather what the inside story is about. I think that disabled people are better at understanding this concept because of what we go through on a daily basis. I am convinced that my life was supposed to be like this...I have become a better person because of my disability. I am more understanding of things and people...ABLE-TOGETHER is a God-send to me. I see [that] there are so many like myself, gay and disabled. I also see [that] there are able-bodied men who are not ashamed to be with gay men who are not [abled]. Thank you.

PE, Sparta, NJ

...Enclosed is my check for [renewal]. I've enjoyed the first year and look forward to more ads in 1996 which are of interest to me. However I have a concern in having absolutely no response to my ad - none - and an apparent lack of interest on the part of advertisers in responding to my expressions of interest. This is especially glaring with the coded ads...Are we sure these people exist? I find it strange that a guy would place an ad and then not respond to inquiries. As I say - I've enjoyed it - and look forward to another year; but maybe some editorial comments along this line are in order...Continued best wishes in publishing your newsletter.

A-T subscriber, MI

Guys, thanks for sharing your experiences, good and bad, of cruising the A-T personals; all the ads in A-T are from paid subscribers whose subscription checks definitely exist; your feedback, including your disappointment and hurt, moves us to address many of the questions you raise in this issue; please read on, and also, if you will, refer back to the editorial on page 3.

We specially thank the New York subscriber for your courage in sharing your painful feelings with us; we feel terrible, and we believe the abled subscribers to whom you wrote will feel terrible when they realize your response to their not writing back to you was to figure they felt they didn't have to because they are abled and you are disabled; we hope that, after this issue, you will know this cannot have been so and that you will find this knowledge useful to you.

And we thank the New Jersey subscriber for your insight into how, as we become older, and perhaps acquire a disability, our focus in choosing relationships inevitably moves beyond the superficial physical manifestation of the other person to a more spiritually-based appreciation; those of us who understand this and yet retain strong physically-oriented desires salute those who have attained your position.

And as to the subject of replying to replies, our correspondent Tod Kromer has this to say:

...I always send a photo up front when I write to a man for the first time, along with a letter containing some personal information about myself; if I don't hear back from him I just assume that he is looking for some other combination of personal and physical characteristics, and that's fine. But I do have a residual feeling of discomfort that - maybe the letter didn't get to the right destination, and maybe there's this picture of me and this information about me floating around somewhere. I certainly understand that some people just don't feel good about saying *Thanks, but no thanks* and feel it's kinder not to reply - but, when I get a letter, or short card saying *Thanks for writing, but I don't feel I want to pursue the connection* I appreciate the guy's kindness in thanking me for writing, I know my letter got delivered and I personally feel a lot better than if I get nothing back.

Thanks, Tod, once again for giving us your response in the form of feedback we can all draw on; and we welcome all further contributions from subscribers on this topic.

...I am writing to you...to blast the narrow-mindedness of "a former A-T subscriber", the gentleman whose letter you printed in the July issue. I was shocked by reading that letter. I am acquainted with Brian and take the comments said as a form of character assassination. Has the Gay Community not suffered enough persecution, discrimination and hatred by outside forces?...I would be the first person to say that you have to be careful of whom you make contact with. But I say this with regards to every ad that is run. You never know if you will end up with someone who is a Jeffrey Dahmer or the sweetest most wonderful lover in the world...To cancel a subscription because of certain ads from certain individuals is total and complete ignorance. Maybe we all need to cancel our subscriptions because someone is from a state or a country we don't like. Is it possible that an ad has been placed by a certain type of disability (or lack of a disability) we don't like...better cancel that subscription then....The thing I would like to know is, how does "a former A-T subscriber" *know* that eighteen guys gave a dollar and then Brian signed the money order?

I am a firm believer in taking people at face-value and giving them the benefit of the doubt...Again I want to say that I am glad that A-T is there for anyone and everyone wanting to take the opportunity to find someone.

KG,Wichita, KS

...I personally corresponded with a number of gay inmates and without exception they soon showed that all they were interested in was getting money and gifts...[Though] I am still writing to one, all the rest, when they saw I was not going to get financially involved until they were with me, just faded away, including two who, to the day they were released, promised they were coming straight to my home!

KD, Lake Harbor, FL

Guys, we thank you (and others not excerpted here) for your feedback on the question of whether A-T should offer subscriptions to prisoners. We are happy to discover that Brian has found a good friend and enthusiastic advocate through his A-T subscription; and we are further grateful to the Kansas subscriber for your sharing with us your willingness to take responsibility for how you feel in response to a particular ad in A-T, and we admire how you keep your faith in people's basic goodness and at the same time keep the degree of cautiousness that works for you.

We are grateful also to the Florida subscriber for sharing your experience that prisoners may be more likely to be interested in a short-term monetary gift than in developing interpersonal contact; whilst we feel that, where this is the case, it is an understandable concomitant of the disability (see editorial in the April, 95 issue of A-T) of being incarcerated, and whilst we feel that it would be inappropriately discriminatory for A-T to refuse at all to sell subscriptions to men in prison, we also *wish to further the present position in which, if we may categorize you, A-T subscribers as a whole are men who are likely to be interested in engaging in explorations of relationship where disability is part of the context.*

The present state of our thinking is that it is right for us to discourage subscriptions from men - whether in prison or not - who do not seem to us to be readily identifiable as belonging to this category of A-T subscribers.

A-T may print extracts from letters received unless specifically asked not to; writers will be identified by their initials, city and state, unless we are advised to the contrary.

continued

...I am writing this letter to thank Tod Kromer for his response in the October 1995 issue of ABLE-TOGETHER to the question *What is the turn on?*. As an abled man who shares this attraction for [men having] certain physical disabilities, I must say that it seems as though I have many of the same feelings and experiences as Mr. Kromer. I too was aware of my attraction to and identification with amputees long before I was aware of the fact that I was gay, only later during adolescence did these feelings become sexual...I don't believe the origins of these feelings are as important as the fact that they are real and should be [given expression]. I also agree with the statement that this is only an attraction that draws me to men with disabilities and not a guarantee that I will develop a relationship of any kind with every amputee or paraplegic man that I meet. The [actuarial] chances of [my] developing a relationship with a disabled gay man are rather remote, but the existence of organizations such as ABLE-TOGETHER help to make this a possibility with a chance of being realized. The feelings that I experience are a part of who I am that I have dealt with every day for as long as I can remember. It has taken a long time to accept and come to terms with this, but now I am more open and honest with myself and others about it and feel much better for doing so. Thanks Tod!

AJ, Athens, WV

A, we thank you for your contribution to the debate begun by a disabled man's question in a letter printed in the April, '95 issue of A-T.

We believe our New Jersey subscriber (see above) will recognize your ability to distinguish between what might initially draw you to a man from across a street or crowded room and what might thereafter keep you wanting to know this person; we specially salute your willingness to share how you feel with A-T readers and hope to draw from your experience that, the more honest you are able to be in letting someone know how he affects you, the better will be your relationship both with this person and with your self. We appreciate your vulnerability in letting us know how you hope membership of A-T might make a difference in your life.

And Tod allows us to share with you that, as well as being an abled man who is attracted to disabled men, he is also *a heavy man who has the experience of being ashamed of his body and wondering what's the turn on that some men feel to heaviness; we see Tod as in this way having a perspective from both sides of this debate and we hope soon to receive another piece of writing from him exploring his experience as a man bewildered at receiving appreciation for a physical characteristic he has been used to seeing as unattractive - or, in the painful words of our Texas subscriber (above) - causing shame.*

...Your editors sent a copy to the local CIL, where I saw it. While you do an excellent job overall, you mix employment and personals in some ads. Draw a line! Don't cross it! As a bisexual PSA, I would not sleep with my boss. The subject never came up. I'm not sure that I could if it did. As a 48 year old former teacher I guess I'm getting set in my ways. I think a separate section of PSA ads would be a good addition.

A-T reader, Charlotte, NC

We respect your commitment to the highest professional ethics and the line that, for you and many others, exists between professional and "personal" contact; we also *wish to accommodate the needs for advertising expression of subscribers who do not feel this distinction in the same way; and we are also aware that love and partner-relationships often develop quite naturally between people whose daily lives are in close contact, even where both parties are very aware of this distinction. You have certainly placed the creation of a separate section of PSA ads on our policy review agenda and we actively solicit and will respond to feedback from subscribers on this question.*

...I really enjoyed the first issues I've received from you. I'm always curious about the guys that put these magazines together. Did you ever think about putting together an employee profile, along with a photo, in the [newsletter]? I'm sure other guys have wondered too, but if you're too shy to have it published you have my address to send it to me personally.

A-T subscriber, PA

All of us at A-T are charmed and attracted by your empathic interest in us - the persons behind the functions!

continued

Apart from Michael, all of us whose names appear on the masthead run personal contacts ads in the newsletter; we believe our North Carolina correspondent (see above) will endorse our decision to keep our profiles in our personal ads and out of the editorial section of the newsletter; if you reply to one of us we will do our best to learn from the insights of your fellow correspondents on these pages; we will try to see and understand you for who you really are and to appreciate the gift of your connection with us.

When we exchange photos, or meet, we may well have expectations of experiencing a physical attraction; if we become disappointed in these expectations we will do our best to understand that it is not your fault but our clouded vision if we cannot see in you that which we may believe we are looking for.

If we decide to say Thanks, but no we hope to find a way of doing so that enriches both of us and leaves us stronger.

And as to the subject of photos, another Canadian correspondent has suggested we make available to personal advertisers the option to have their pictures printed. We are inclined to believe that the unpredictable results from attempted reproduction of subscribers' originals of differing qualities would not serve you well and we are open to your further feedback, which we actively solicit.

...Please find a check enclosed for a one year subscription. I have subscribed in years past and am once again hearing good things coming from ABLE-TOGETHER and would like to be a part.

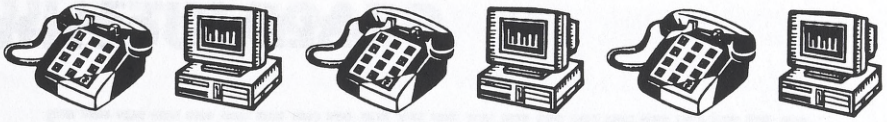
A-T subscriber, TX

...I was pleasantly surprised to receive my first issue of A-T. You are doing a beautiful job of putting it together. So pleased to see the many ads from older men. Many say that life starts at forty. I am turning over new leaves at 60. Also so nice to see that ads are not cut down to just the bare minimum. Keep up the good work...

CB, British Columbia,
Canada

Thanks for your feedback, guys; we are as pleased to know of the return of a former subscriber as we are to attract new people to A-T; we hope your experience of this year will be such that you will bothwant to keep A-T membership as a continuing part of your lives.

We urge you and all subscribers to take full advantage of the fact that we encourage you to change your ads from quarter to quarter; experiment; find out what works less well and what works better; what attracts replies and what doesn't; use the personals as a way of keeping us all abreast of what's going on for you in your life...



ABLE TOGETHER ON-LINE

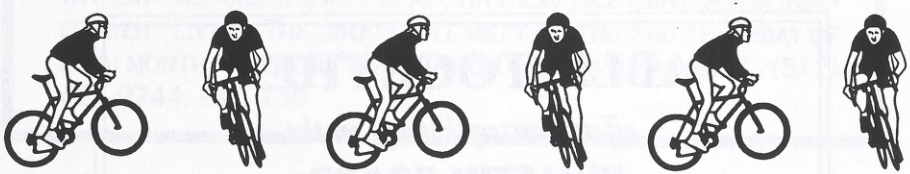
If you have a personal computer, a modem, and an account with Internet access you have another way to get in touch with A-T.

E-mail us at: blaine@well.com

If you have access to the World Wide Web on the 'net, visit A-T's home page,

http://www.well.com/user/blaine/abletog.html

Cruising the internet is an ideal medium for gay people with disabilities. Our disabilities are not an issue for us in cyberspace as they are in the "real" world. And if we're not in a position to be totally "out" there are ways to ensure our privacy while enjoying the benefits of queer electronic friendships. I encourage any of you with the financial resources: consider a PC/modem . It will open up whole new worlds for you.



CALIFORNIA AIDS RIDE 3

CALIFORNIA AIDS RIDE 3 is a fund-raising event sponsored by Tanqueray. Proceeds will benefit the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and other AIDS organizations. The ride is a seven day ride from San Francisco to Los Angeles. It begins on June 2nd and pedals its way through to June 8th, 1996. Anyone interested in participating in the ride or in volunteering for on-the-ground help can contact contributing editor Jonathan Farrell at - 1550 22nd Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94122, ph: 415 664 0415 - or call CALIFORNIA AIDS RIDE 3 at 415 908 0400 or 213 874 7474.

Sexuality Booklet

"When I was newly injured,
sex seemed to be a taboo subject"

This innovative booklet, written for and by spinal cord injured gay/bisexual men, is directed both at the newly injured and the not-so-newly injured.

Price: £6 U.K.; £8.50 everywhere else (overseas airmail)

Order From: Spinal Injuries Association
76 St. James's Lane
London N10 3DF United Kingdom
Telephone: 0181-444-2121

ABLE-TOGETHER

offers courtesy listings on the

BULLETIN BOARD;

we ask in return that you help publicize A-T by keeping some of our flyers on-hand to distribute to members of your group.

A-T is happy to institute group subscription schemes - please get in touch with us to talk about how A-T can be a part of your group.

BULLETIN BOARD

EDGE

EDUCATION in a DISABLED GAY ENVIRONMENT

EDGE meets on the second Sunday of every month at 12:30 pm at

IDENTITY HOUSE
39 WEST 14TH STREET
NEW YORK CITY 10011
between 5th and 6th Streets

Edge is open to people of all abilities and disabilities.

For information call Carl at 212 929 7178

AUSTIN, TX SUPPORT GROUP STARTING

A-T SUBSCRIBER AND CONTRIBUTOR DAVID THOMPSON IS STARTING AN "ABLE-TOGETHER" GROUP FOR GAY MEN AND LESBIANS WITH AND WITHOUT DISABILITIES AT THE AUSTIN RESOURCE CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING. THE GROUP WILL MEET ON THE 3RD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH. FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL DAVID AT ARCIL, (512) 467-0744, EXT. 130

HELP WANTED

WE ARE CURRENTLY UNABLE TO PROVIDE ABLE-TOGETHER ON TAPE FOR OUR VISUALLY-IMPAIRED SUBSCRIBERS!!

Please contact A-T if you have the capability to put this issue of the newsletter on tape.

A GUIDE TO CONTACT AD LISTINGS

How to reply to a coded ad: Put your letter in an envelope, seal it, and put the A-T code # of the advertiser you are replying to in the top right corner of the envelope. Put this envelope, together with the correct reimbursement for forwarding (*see below*), in another envelope; seal it, address it to A-T and mail it! You may respond to as many coded ads as you wish, and put all the numbered envelopes in one larger envelope to mail to us.

We believe the best kind of ad is the one that gives the reader the clearest picture of who you are. We therefore encourage ad length (but reserve the right to edit) and accurate statements of personal statistics such as age and weight. You should bear in mind that our subscribers are likely to want to know whether you are disabled or abled, so please include this information, and try to be as detailed as you can about yourself and your way of being and presentation in the world, because it very greatly helps both you and potential responders if they can gain a reasonable picture you from the ad. ***We encourage changes and updates to ads!***

Although ABLE-TOGETHER strives without judgment to encourage honest self-expression we are aware that many of our subscribers may feel depersonalized and objectified in response to certain personal contact ad material. Because of the importance A-T attaches to the avoidance of objectification and depersonalization in interpersonal relations we may edit personal contact ads submitted to us which seem to us to contain sexually overly explicit or overly fetishistic material. *If you are dissatisfied with this policy we will cancel your subscription.*

DEADLINES: ABLE-TOGETHER needs your ad copy **before the 1st of the month of the issue the ad is to appear in.** New, renewed or changed ads reaching us after April 1st, July 1st, etc., are not guaranteed to appear in that month's issue. We will try, but no promises.

ABLE-TOGETHER does not profit from forwarding replies to coded contact ads, but we do ask that you send us full reimbursement for our postage costs in forwarding your reply to the advertiser:

- for US responses to US advertisers, this is a 32¢ stamp;
- for US responses to Canada, this is a 50¢ stamp;
- for US responses to advertisers *outside* the US or Canada, this is a $1 stamp
- for overseas responders who do not have US stamps and wish to send a $1 bill, this will cover *three* replies within the US or *two* toCanada or *one* elsewhere;

Please note that these rates are for minimum-weight letters; heavier items cost more to send, and when in doubt, please check at the post office. Remittance of forwarding costs may be made to ABLE-TOGETHER in valid US postage stamps, in currency, or by check or money order. All payments are sent to us at sender's risk. ABLE-TOGETHER does not accept responsibility for materials sent to us to be forwarded, and we reserve the right to destroy materials not accompanied by adequate reimbursement for forwarding costs.

CONTACT AD LISTINGS

PERSONAL CONTACTS INITIATED THROUGH ABLE-TOGETHER CONTACT AD LISTINGS ARE DONE SO ENTIRELY AT THE RISK AND ON THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PERSONS CONCERNED. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO MAKE SURE YOU ARE DOING WHAT YOU WANT TO BE DOING, AND WITH THE PERSON YOU WANT TO BE DOING IT WITH. IF YOU DECIDE TO BE SEXUAL WITH SOMEONE YOU ARE VERY STRONGLY URGED FIRST TO CALL YOUR LOCAL AIDS/STD HOTLINE FOR ADVICE.

LOOKING FOR EXCHANGE BUDDIES. 47, 5'9", 170 lbs, disabled arm. Interested in corresponding with guys - age, weight, disability, looks not important. Looking to exchange explicit letters, homemade videotapes (have my own video camera), pictures, *whatever!* Let's do it! *Ray, POB 81613, San Diego, CA 92138.*

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA. 50 year old white male, L-1 paraplegic, in wheelchair for 30 years, Vietnam vet, salt & pepper hair, 5'11", 145 lbs, some tattoos, very independent, live alone. I like swimming, sunbathing, fishing, old classic movies, shooting pool. I would like to meet quiet type abled male for some quiet dates, friendship, maybe more. Write please with photo to: *POB 1253, Downey, CA 90240.*

HELLO GUYS! My name is Chris. I'm a 32 year old para in San Francisco hoping to find friends, fun and maybe a long term relationship! I'm, 5'6", 130lbs, reddish blond and blue eyes. I enjoy country/western music, Roseanne, my art work, sunshine, rainy days in bed, evenings at home, laughter and smoking (oops!) my cigs. Hope to hear from you - and pictures much appreciated! If you're interested please call *ph. (415) 923 9213* or write me at *926 Fillmore #104, San Francisco, CA 94117.*

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA. 38 year old paraplegic, professional, love to travel, meet men, and enjoy pleasing you orally! Seeking able bodied man between ages 25-37 to see if we can connect for fun & a unique experience! *Steven Crawford, POB 4515, Laguna Beach, CA 92652, telephone: (714) 497 6141.*

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA. GWM 45, 5'6", 155#, brn/blu. 15 years ago when I became disabled I left Southern California for the country and never looked back. My dream was to live in a nice little house with a white picket fence; well...I have reached that dream and would like very much to share it with someone special. I would like to meet someone who is smoke, drink and drug -free. I prefer men with less body hair but am genuinely open to all who are sincere, honest and interested

ADS

CA

in building a warm, caring, sharing relationship over the long term. Let's talk. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #671.*

CALIFORNIA. GWM 38, 5'8", 165, blind since birth. I wish to meet other disabled guys. I love to cook, take long walks, music of all kinds, reading and quiet times together. I would love to establish a long-term, monogamous relationship. *Michael Hayward, POB 411616, Los Angeles, CA 90041.*

SAN FRANCISCO. Are you slender or medium build, masculine, any age or any height, preferably with facial hair - redheads and/or bald(ing) a plus, - honest, down-to-earth, trustworthy, man with an ambulatory, hearing or sight disability who is interested in a loving and mutually supportive relationship? I am a 50 year old balding, somewhat hairy GWM, "bear" type, 5'7", 220 lbs, brown eyes w/ glasses, very long salt-and-pepper beard, HIV-, abled, warm, affectionate, open-hearted, into safe sex, cuddling and sleeping together. *Mike, 115 Rey Street, San Francisco, CA 94134-2740.*

CALIFORNIA. I am a mature, handsome, caring law student in a wheelchair with Cerebral Palsy. I'm 45, with brown hair and eyes, tanned complexion, and told I look like Al Pacino. I would like to share my life with a young (18-30ish) able-aware, sincere, caring, spiritual, preferably Christian guy with a big heart who wants, spontaneously and reciprocally, fully to give and receive abundant, appreciative, balanced and supporting love. Please be fun, adventurous, courageous, afraid of nothing - perhaps having had a near-death experience - and willing to relocate. I enjoy traveling, sight-seeing, movies, theater, music including opera and ballet, museums, art galleries, parks, the beach, dining out, and doing whatever is exciting, rejuvenating, invigorating, exotic, and stretching to a person's fullest potential. I also meditate and pray. I am very romantic and imagine being with my lover along the beach and in the moonlight and over a candle-lit dinner; my hope is for a lifetime's relationship of deeply passionate, invigorating sharing at every level, heart to heart, soul to soul, spirit to spirit and body to body. If you have a heart full of love and love yourself, then you're my man. *Eddie, POB 4607, Berkeley, CA 94704, fax: 510 841 2980.*

CALIFORNIA. I'm a 30 year old paraplegic African-American male, 6'3", 230 lbs. I enjoy movies, music, quiet evenings at home, dinner and the beach. I'm an outgoing person in search of someone who is caring, honest, affectionate and outgoing and who has a positive outlook on life. If you are interested for a possible relationship/friendship - please write with mailing address and preferably photo. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1077.*

SAN DIEGO COUNTY. Actor/artist, European (born in Austria), 41 years, GW quad., C6-7 incomplete, 24 yrs. post-injury, 5'10", 155 lbs, br/gr, searching for playmates and possible relationship. I enjoy life and am intensely sexual. I hope to hear from abled individuals to 55 who are fit, active, sensitive, affectionate, intelligent. Phone # appreciated. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #381.*

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA. HIV- GHM, 32, 5'10", 160 lbs, with short black hair, dark eyes, goodlooking, masculine, educated, honest, stable. I enjoy camping, swimming, bike riding, photography, traveling, going to the ocean. I have old polio on the right leg but I'm very active. I'm looking to meet abled, HIV- GHMs or GWMs 25-40 years old with similar interests for friendship and possible relationship. Please respond with letter and photo if possible. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1079.*

EARTHY OUTDOORSMAN. Gay grandfather, disabled/retired silversmith, 5'11", 200#, hairy and versatile. Love to fish, have a boat, travel trailer, ready to go; need you to come along. My home is handicapped accessible, lots of back yard. Home, a place for the quiet times in front of the fire. Seek companion, friend, soulmate, then maybe more. Small turns me on. *Irving, POB 89, Yolo, CA 95697.* **E-mail: irving@mother.com**

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA. My community identity is with the men in ABLE-TOGETHER's population, especially amputees. I network with guys from all over and I'm interested in making friends, dating, sharing interests/experiences, visiting distant buddies, getting good people together and maybe even finding Mr. Right. I like movies, music, reading. GWM 39, 5'7", 160#, light brown/white hair, blue eyes, abled and missing half of left thumb. I like sensual, warm buddies with whom to exchange TLC on cold nights. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #383, or* **E-mail: buddy369@aol.com.**

CALIFORNIA. Attractive GWM, 32, 5'9", green eyes, chestnut-brown hair, with goatee, 165 pounds. My physical challenge is cerebral palsy affecting my legs. This challenge does not stop me from staying active. I ride a mountain bike regularly, exercise routinely and am in good shape. Enjoy the arts & humanities and philosophy was my major in college. I work at a corporate job part-time while pursuing a career in writing. I aspire to become a literary artist, by completing a novel and having it published soon. Please write to *1550 22nd Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94122.*

SAN DIEGO AREA. Shy GWM, post-polio with leg brace, young looking 40's, likes nude fun and SM/BD games indoors and out.

Not into the bar scene - enjoy quiet evenings at home, dinner out, travel, etc. Interested in meeting guys able or disabled for friendship, pen pals, safe sex. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #137.*

SAN FRANCISCO. Outgoing, energetic, abled man, 35, 5'11", 175#, who enjoys adventure, romance, keeping busy and quiet times, nature and city life, friendship, would like to correspond with and meet disabled man who shares an active mind and a love of life. I'm a health professional, enjoy travel, communication, and look forward to talking. *Steven, 4010 19th Street, San Francisco, CA 94114, or ph: (415) 621 8208.*

CALIFORNIA. Sexy, disabled GWM seeks friendship and fun with other men, abled or disabled. I'm 31, 5'7", 140 lbs, HIV neg., dark brown hair and eyes. I walk with crutches and have limited use of my hands. I'm into movies, travel, computers and reading. Please be attractive, friendly, HIV neg., and not heavy into drugs/drink. I would most like to hear from men my age and younger but that is not an absolute. Photo appreciated and will get mine. Blaine. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #013.*

GAY NAVY VETERAN. Disabled gay Navy veteran wishes to correspond with penpals from all over the world - you won't be disappointed! Write today! *Robert C. Healy, 1086 Post Street #309, San Francisco, CA 94109, telephone: (415) 921 8950.*

SAN FRANCISCO/BEYOND. I am a fair-complected abled Jewish male-who-likes-males, an attractive, athletic, and cute 45 year old generation-X-wannabe, rollerblade novice and biopsycho-spiritually-oriented graduate student. I am HIV neg., a very hairy muscular 5'10" with nice chest and arms, weigh about 160. I am bald and keep my head shaved. I keep an unshaven lower lip and sometimes goatee. I see myself as warm, caring, very interested in people, somewhat alternative, drug- and smoke-free, a little New Age-y, honest, straightforward. I am open to hearing from a disabled or abled man for good connection - intimate friendship - travel - dating - hanging out - relationship - hearing what you are open to. I like talking on the phone, visiting, cooking, laughing, being around, eating with in or out, psychology, mindless TV sitcoms, and exchanging much touch and affection when you are physically drawn to me and I to you. I like men who are empathic, affectionate, adventurous, athletic-within-ability, HIV neg., young-in-the-nineties generation X or generation-X-wannabe type guys. I will also be very happy to hear from any male not specially seeing yourself as being many or any of these things and yet feeling you are drawn to replying to me. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #252 or ph: (415) 431 8356.*

UNIQUE INDIVIDUAL, gay male, of Indian and black heritage, raised as a middle-class American, 67 years old, tho' my genes conspire to make me look, facially, barely 40, polio-disabled in childhood and now using an electric wheelchair to great advantage; always active, never indolent, sometime minister, counselor, and now working for our empowerment. I like the theater, musicals, motion pictures, parks, being at home, science, science fiction, and anything that strikes my fancy. My tastes in food are eclectic, with a leaning toward pastas, seafood and Chinese. I enjoy active people. Friendship is for me the only platform for all other interactions, especially including the sexual. I would welcome correspondence and interaction with other readers of ABLE-TOGETHER, disabled or abled. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #669.*

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA. Hi! I'm Sam. I'm 30, bald, 5'5", medium build, 175 lbs, Filipino. I was born with hypohydrotic ectodermal dysplasia - a condition characterized by absence of sweat glands and sparse, thin hair. I'm a fulltime student in the health profession with some clinical experience in mental health and starting pre-clinicals in physical dysfunctions. I'm discreet, caring, sensitive, affectionate. Raised in a conservative religious background. Being closeted in a non gay-friendly environment easily burns me out. I'm looking for some social life that is relatively active, reciprocal, emotional, and hopefully helpful in "recharging" my zest in providing quality care for other people. I'd like to meet friendly white/Hispanic/Asian guys, 20-40, who are expressive, sincere, willing to commit, HIV-, non-smokers, not into drugs and hopefully Christian. I enjoy quiet evenings; classical/jazz/dance music; some volleyball, swimming; cuddling; table tennis and any activity that is compensated by keeping my body temperature down since my body heats up easily. Thanks for reading my ad and hope to hear from you soon. **E-mail: sladion1@ccmail.llu.edu** *or replies with correct postage please to A-T #1074.*

CALIFORNIA. 44 y.o. post-polio GWM, 6'1", 155 lbs, right leg 1" shorter. I am very active and do not let my limited disability slow me down or keep me from things I enjoy such as bicycling, swimming, camping or long walks. The things I have a passion for are getting lost in the sound of ocean waves, cuddling in front of a fireplace, live theater, picnics, breath-stopping kisses, fusion jazz, C-W music, playing the piano, decorating the Christmas tree. I am looking for a long-term monogamous relationship with a sincere, very affectionate, honest abled or disabled man who has a good sense of humor and can be spontaneous. Age or looks not important. Penpals also welcomed. *Larry Rhea, 829 E. Hedges #103, Fresno, CA 93728, ph: (209) 233 7843.*

CALIFORNIA. Hi! This is Tim, working in entertainment and for global understanding. I'm 6'2", 30, br/gr, short beard, 200#, slightly math-impaired. I'm looking for a chubby/heavyset guy with physical disability. I'm into a modern, natural environment, flexible but basically a New Age Democrat. Also into literature, music, dance, singing (I have a karaoke set), TV, radio, theatre, film, long strolls, laying around the house talking and falling asleep in each other's arms... *[sigh].* I am drawn to guys born with spina bifida or CP - and welcome replies from all overweight men. Preferred age range 30's to 70's - old enough to remember the 60's, not old enough to remember WWI. I look forward to your letter and picture/video (returnable). *Tim A., 4204 Revere Place, Culver City, CA 90230.*

LIVING AT THE BEACH IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA. Catholic, conventional, GWM 37, br/bl, 5'8", 145 lbs, great looks. I'm an abled professional with an advanced degree. I hope to connect with an educated, emotionally and sexually available para, 25-40, with good looks, a passion for living and old-fashioned values. Photo would be nice. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #976.*

CALIFORNIA. I am a 62 year old paraplegic male, in wheelchair 15 years, hoping to find a friend or friends to love and maybe a long-term relationship. I am not into drugs or S & M. I am 5'8", 168 lbs, graying hair, brown eyes. I enjoy country/western music, classical and jazz. Be GWM/GBM 35 to 60 and liking to make love. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #983.*

COLORADO. Spanish/German male with CP, ambulatory, can get around, 46 years young, black hair, brown eyes, 5'3", 130 lbs, HIV-. I want to meet stable, healthy, talentedly-oral "Daddy-type" GWMs abled and disabled, 30-60 yrs. Please write with photo (returned upon request) and I will send you mine. *Luis Perez, 1955 Arapahoe Street #806, Denver, CO 80202-1834.*

DELAWARE. GWM 34, brown hair, blue eyes, 190 lbs, 5'11". Disabled, caring, honest, fun, loving. In search of: gay muscle men, gay motorcycle men. And disabled persons who are caring, honest, loving, understanding, ages 30-40. LTR-minded. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1022.*

FLORIDA. GWM 44, 5'6", 135 lbs, brown hair and eyes, nonsmoker, HIV negative. Very independant, use wheelchair and drive for transportation. I love dining out, enjoy movies, music, reading, swimming, bowling. Attend college. I am very open to learning new things and simply like having fun. I seek a 40 to 50 year old

masculine, well-developed/solid white male with similar interests and the same qualities for friendship and possible monogamous relationship. No drugs/S&M. A photo would be nice. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #911.*

HOPELESSLY ROMANTIC GWM 39, 6', 190lbs, br/br, mustache, abled, in search of GWM 20-48 disabled who walks with crutches. I enjoy dinners, movies, videos, the beach, amusement parks, quiet times and cuddling with that special person. I am an honest, caring trustworthy male who is interested in a monogamous relationship; I am very affectionate, loving and respectful. I live alone and close to the airport, and would welcome your visit. *Michael Kirnard, 2974 Wildhorse Road, Orlando, FL 32822, ph: (407) 249 0574.*

FLORIDA. GWM 60, 6', 185 lbs. I have multiple sclerosis. I am working and live alone. I'm shy, clean and safe, small-endowed. Would like to hear from friends and penpals. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #132.*

TAMPA, FL METRO AREA. GWM 47, abled, 6', hazel eyes, auburn/graying hair, stocky build, educated. I enjoy cultural/historical activities, museums and travel. I am a non-smoker, light drinker, no drugs! Good personality - honest, caring, trustworthy and discreet. I am looking for similar qualities in a man older than myself, someone loving and respectful, wheelchair/crutches/polio a plus. Will exchange photos. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #871.*

FLORIDA. Retired GWM, former social worker, teacher and ordained Baptist clergyman who knows that GAY AND GOD GO GOOD TOGETHER! I'm a full time RV-er, winter near Lake Okeechobee, and hope to travel 7-8 months a year if I can find a truly gay life partner to join me. I am 65 years old, though most people say I look younger, 5'11", 225 pounds, dark blond hair, blue eyes, wear glasses, currently have a moustache, HIV-, only disability is diabetes which is under control. I had a young lover for eight years who then decided to take on the straight life. I have been alone now for three years and am sincerely looking for a young, truly gay guy interested in an active life and long relationship with an older man who will give all the love and care that a man could desire. I am a non-smoker, non-drinker and born-again Christian looking for a man who would be comfortable in a discreet, active relationship together. I prefer someone in his teens or twenties but ALL will be considered. Photo appreciated, but not necessary - I will answer all letters. Also I would welcome short term visitors this winter if you would like to escape the cold and visit to South Florida. *Ken Debus, POB 63, Lake Harbor, FL 33459.*

GEORGIA. GWM 40, 230 lbs, brown/green, abled, in search of male who is a/k amputee for friendship and possible relationship. Please send letter and photo to *KWS, 302 Kay Drive, Dalton, GA 30721, ph. (706) 259 6423.*

ATLANTA, GEORGIA. Hey, y'all. I'm a 43 year old GWM, 5'6", 135 lbs. My disability is mild/moderate cerebral palsy. I am seeking friendship - and possibly more - with others who are well-humored and have interests similar to mine. Friends describe me as warm, caring and gregarious. I love life and thrive on diversity. Professionally, I have a graduate degree in rehabilitation and work for the Federal government. My interests include (but are not limited to): art, jazz/popular music, movies, theatre, politics, travel, reading, and long walks and talks. I see your age and race as factors extraneous to who you are. *Bruce J. Rose, 430 Lindbergh Drve NE, #M2, Atlanta, GA 30305-3870, ph: 404-816 0130.* **E-mail: Bruce_Rose@ED.GOV**

ALOHA FROM HAWAI'I! I am a 34 year old GWM on Maui who is particularly attracted to men who are amputees, especially AK. I am 6'1" and weigh about 190#. I have dirty blond hair and mustache. I enjoy outdoor activities, especially the beach, swimming, snorkeling, etc. I am especially turned on by Asian, Filipino, Polynesian, and Latino men with little body hair. Take a chance and write, you never know where it might lead. Aloha. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #447.*

ILLINOIS. GWM, abled, attracted to and interested in corresponding & meeting with guys who wear leg braces, also guys wearing teeth braces. *Terry Troutman, POB 1107, Arlington Heights, IL 60006.*

ILLINOIS. 25 yrs, 5'10", 140 lbs, bl/bl, smooth body. I am a top wheelchair basketball and top 5 tennis player. I'm an incomplete quad. - have full sensation and mobility on right side and partial on left and can walk with crutches. I'm well-built and very cute and looking for other athletic masculine men (preferred age range 30-45 but open). If you are healthy, attractive and love sports and would like to meet a very goodlooking and incompletely disabled athlete, please get in touch. Photo, return address and 'phone # appreciated if you write. *Robby, 700 S. Lewis Lane #1803, Carbondale, IL 62901, ph (618) 549 7049.*

ILLINOIS. Abled GWM 59, much younger looking, 6', 185, blond, mustache/beard, smooth, HIV-, non-smoker. Living in Chicago, would relocate to San Francisco. I was raised on a farm and love animals and gardening. Have a cat. I would like a

monogamous relationship with a younger man wanting love and care. Please reply with photo and phone #. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #879.*

MARYLAND. Reasonably attractive Italian-Irish male, very healthy 55 (look 45), 5'10", 185 lbs, 38" chest, 36" waist, hazel eyes, brown hair, liberal Republican, dissenting Papist (Dignity), in transition from marriage, looking for companionship. I am an incomplete quadriplegic, able to stand and transfer, all working plumbing, and hoping for more recovery. I like Italian men, but am open to all; I am looking for a facilitator/comforter, abled or disabled. I like classical music, visual arts, politics, theater, museums; I would love one day to tour European cathedrals and hear their organs - perhaps with you? *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #894.*

MARYLAND. GWM, mature, hairy, 6ft, blue/brown-gray, 185/190lbs. Life-long attraction to GMs with one leg shorter than the other or club foot or limp. I am truthful, loving, monogamous and seek same in mate for a permanent relationship. I like antiques, classical music & opera, cooking, travel, loving home in beautiful environment. My handicap is a short penis with small, mis-mated balls. Hope that our handicaps can be combined for mutual deep love and understanding. Please write to: *John, 1110 Fidler Lane #801, Silver Spring, MD 20910, ph. (301) 589 1873.*

MARYLAND. GWM, 37, paraplegic, 5'11", 140lbs, brown hair, hazel eyes. Very good upper body strength. My interests include music, movies, literature, sports, and having good times. I would like to meet disabled or abled GWMs 18 to 45 years old. Interested in getting together for friendship with the possibility of a sexual and emotional relationship. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #470.*

MARYLAND. Goodlooking GWM 33, recently wheelchair bound with MS, blond hair, hazel eyes, 5'11", 175 lbs, HIV-, swimmer's build, very active both sexually and physically. I enjoy swimming, working out at the gym and going to night spots, clubs and staying home with the right person, and I love to travel and sunbathe. I have lately discovered I have a fetish for leather (but am *not* interested in S&M). I'm in search of a top man 18-45 with similar interests, with/without a handicap, strong and preferably muscular, ready for adventure, friendship, possible ltr. Please write with photo. *John May, 10864 Bucknell Drive, Wheaton, MD 20902.*

MASSACHUSSETTS. My name is Phil. I'm an abled gay man, 39 years old, 5'11", 210#, brown hair/beard, and I live in the Boston area. I own two successful businesses, am financially quite secure, enjoy traveling when I can find the time - my favorite destination is

Las Vegas! I enjoy my coin collection, watching the same movies over and over, some science fiction, keeping tropical fish, dining out (when I get tired of my lousy cooking!), a good glass of wine and cuddling on the sofa. I am college educated and have a commercial pilot's license. I'm very attracted to disabled gay men, preferably younger than I, who have a good sense of humor and who like to cuddle! I desire a relationship, not just sex. If that's you too, please drop me a note. I promise a prompt and honest reply to every letter I may receive. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #731.*

MASSACHUSSETTS. GWM 37, with cerebral palsy. Manual wheelchair user. Very independent, articulate, intelligent, respectful, laid-back and lovable. I love music from classical to rock, films, dining out, drawing, conversation, being with friends, the outdoors, honesty, laughter and affection. I am commitment oriented and monogamous by nature. Am looking for correspondents, friendships and possible long term relationship. If you have similar interests and a passion for life, I'd love to hear from you. - Stephen. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #781.*

MASSACHUSSETTS. GWM 38, 6'3", 235 lbs, brown hair, hazel eyes, beefy paraplegic, navy veteran, CEO of own company. I love travel, warm climates, hugging, cuddling. I like watching sports - gymnastics, swimming, tennis and figure-skating. Looking for a lifemate. *Ron, 25 Quisset Brook Road, Milton, MA 02186.*

MASSACHUSSETTS. Artist/teacher in Boston, 55, very disability-aware abled, thoughtful, sensitive, many interests, travel throughout New England, looking to correspond/exchange photographs with all and any interested men. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #368.*

MASSACHUSSETTS. I'm a recent para (T-10), finding it difficult to adjust. I wheel along the ocean, garden, stamp collect, watch classic movies, read and try to laugh. I'm an athletic 45, 5'7", 148 lbs, with brown hair and eyes, olive skin, Italian looks. I am looking for gay companionship of all kinds - would love some penpals, friends, and maybe ... *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #907.*

MICHIGAN. Abled GWM, 6', 185 lbs, interested in hearing from amputee guys - especially leg amputees - also interested in hearing from any guys wearing dentures. *Please write: POB 186, East Tawas, MI 48730.*

MICHIGAN/CALIFORNIA. Alternative, progressive, independent GWM 34, 5'8", 140#, long brown hair and eyes, with offbeat

good looks and keen sense of humor. I've been in a wheelchair since I was 21 from a car accident. I'm well-adjusted and well-traveled and with diversified interests. My search is for a confident, artistic, abled GWM 20-40 who is looking for a love connection. I have a great circle of friends but something is missing. I commute from LA back to Michigan regularly. If interested write me with a recent photo of yourself; I'm looking forward to all responses. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #883.*

MISSISSIPPI. GWM, 59, 5'11", 210#, gr/br hair and beard, HIV-, use crutches or cane, seeking GWM, 35+ for friendship/relationship. Hairy body, beard and/or stache a plus. I am a smoker, moderate drinker, no drugs. I am a low vision person, so please consider that when writing. I enjoy almost all music except Rock, like camping, boating, swimming, watching some TV, travel when possible, small parties, dining in as well as dining out, also the theater, arts and museums. I consider myself to be a computer novice but I do enjoy working with the computer and learning new things. I also enjoy some of the gay BB's in my local area. I am a warm and considerate person who enjoys cuddling, kissing and making love, holding and being held. I'm not into any of the B&D or S&M scenes and do not like pain. *Sam Tolar, 1521 W. Highland Drive #H-4, Jackson, MS 39204-2117,* and *America Online:* ***STolar6752.***

MINNESOTA. GWM 49, 5'10", 180#, br/hz, looking for life partner to share mutual achievements, interests and lifestyle amenities. I'm a successful professional post-polio wheelchair user in a north central community, very loving, committed in relationships, open minded, with few hangups. I'm interested in a GWM 35-45, currently abled, HIV-, secure, with a great sense of humor, affectionate & successful in his goals. Interest in outdoor as well as indoor life a plus. Sincere letters will receive replies (photo nice but not initially necessary). *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #791.*

MINNESOTA. GWM 36, attractive, red hair and a trimmed beard. I am physically challenged due to a 1988 car wreck. I walk with a cane or use a chair. Currently I am a student. I enjoy jazz, blues and soft rock. I like movies, trips and good conversation. I am looking for a patient and sincere guy, one with an understanding of disability. HIV negative. I am seeking new friends, disabled or abled. *Bob Barr, 180 Wayzata Street #507, Saint Paul, MN 55117.*

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA. I am a GWM, 49 years old, weigh about 155 pounds, blue eyes, brown hair and mustache. I have a neuro-muscular disability which is not too severe. I use a manual wheelchair but can walk a little. Overall I am quite healthy and a

non-smoker. I am a research scientist, live independently and drive a van. In addition to typical interests (movies, music, etc.) I enjoy traveling and am looking for others, disabled or abled, who might be interested in coming on future trips. I hope to hear from someone who is 30-50, easy-going, masculine, slim to medium in build, and hairy (beard and mustache a plus). Please be a non-smoker and non-drug-user. *Bill Helgeson, 410 Groveland Av. #702, Minneapolis, MN 55403, ph: (612) 871 3630 before 10pm.*

SOUTH WEST MINNESOTA. GWM 33 years old, abled, non-smoker/-drugs, 200 lbs, 6' 7 1/2", brown hair. Am a down to earth guy who cares about another's needs, mind, body and soul. Love to share life with others, enjoy gardening, antiques, reading, movies, music, cooking, sunsets and sunrises, moonlight strolls, cuddling. Penpals welcomed, and all replies answered. Photo appreciated. Write soon! *J. W., 460 Emory Street, Tracy, MN 56175-1132.*

MINNESOTA. 43 year old quad. of 15 years, 5'9" , 155 lbs. Interests include football games, auto racing, body building, x-rated movies. Looking to hear from others, abled and disabled, couples and all ages welcome to respond. Send short letter with long photo and I will respond similarly! *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #804.*

MISSOURI or SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA. GWM 33, 5'10", 155 lbs, light brown hair, blue eyes, HIV+, wearing a brace on left leg. I am living in Missouri now, but relocating Fall '95 to San Francisco where I lived from 1982-1991. I am looking for emotionally enriching relationships - friends, lover - with sincere gay men 30-50, abled or disabled. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #904.*

MISSOURI. GWM, 5'8", 170 lbs, 41 years old, also blind. I am sincere, compassionate and caring, and seeking other gay men who are either blind or who are sighted and accepting of blind people. My interests include walks, eating out, amusement park rides, or just staying at home watching TV or listening to music. I am open minded and enjoy answering any questions concerning blindness, so if you are sighted please do not be afraid. Looking forward to hearing from you. *Don, ph (314) 874 6010.*

NEW HAMPSHIRE. GWM, 47, 6', 185 lbs, HIV-, abled, honest, sincere; I love the country and mountains; I collect antiques. I am the owner of a custom crutch making business and travel some in the north-east region. I am attracted to and hoping to hear from men who are amputees. Photo and phone # appreciated. *Ed Openshaw, POB 65, Rumney, NH 03266, ph(603) 786 9922.*

NEW JERSEY. 53 year old, 200 lb, bi-lateral amputee (BKA), looking for someone on the East Coast to share quiet dinners and evenings (or days) together. I was in professional theatre for over 25 years and have toured the entire US. I am now a peer counselor at the local rehab. center and very active in the independent living movement. My diabetic neuropathy has made me "dysfunctional", but a little shot of prostoglandin-E usually does the trick. What is more important to me is honesty and a warm friendly relationship. I am an avid bird watcher and animal lover and would enjoy just sitting, talking, sharing life experiences, and viewing nature. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1136.*

NORTHERN NEW JERSEY. Partially disabled, ambulatory, heavy GWM looking for lover. Me: 47, 6', 250 lbs, brown eyes, brown hair, beard, HIV -. Like to laugh, cuddle and snuggle. Like books, bookstores, classical music, restaurants, movies. You: GWM 35-50, slim to muscular, with similar likes. Letter and photo get mine. Be strong for me. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #613.*

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY. GWM, young looking 38, blond hair, blue eyes, 5'8", 185 lbs, average build. I'm honest and down-to-earth, Christian, HIV negative, not into alcohol or drugs. I have a mood disorder that is well stabilized by medication, and I receive SSD. I enjoy reading, gardening and physical fitness. I'm looking for someone who can understand me and not be critical. Although I hope to meet a local guy who also wants a monogamous relationship, I love to write and would value replies from potential penpals. Peter. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1101.*

NEW JERSEY. Attractive GBM, 30's, 6'3", 200lbs, b/k amp with a thirst for life and fun seeks a guy or guys, anywhere, 25-55, any race, who like(s) to party, relax and romance a little. Be honest, discreet, down-to-earth, socially conscious. Photo appreciated. *R. K. Williams, 539 Diamond Springs Ave., Cherry Hill, NJ 08003-3606.*

NEW JERSEY. I'm Jeff, 5'10", 150 lbs, cute, dk. brown hair/eyes, 31 years young and easily pass for looking 20-ish. Physically abled but have an anxiety condition. I like hugs, affection, touching, holding, getting out, traveling, watching movies, gay cultural events and my cat, Brownie. I am seeking a loving friendship, very possibly a long-term relationship. I enjoy Barbershop style music and singing as well as other types of music (except heavy metal). I am a liberated man with Christian beliefs and desire you be also. Please be good looking with a full head of hair as I have. Please do not smoke, use drugs or alcohol. I prefer men 30-45, caring, very honest, trustworthy, generous, very affectionate, stable, HIV-. I am

willing to relocate for the right person (hopefully to a warmer climate). Your photo gets mine. *Jeff Woerner, POB 7049, Plainfield, NJ 07060-0799, ph: 908 769 3665 before 11.30 pm.*

NEW YORK. GWM, 42, 5'11", 155 lbs, good youthful muscular looks, swimmer's body, brown hair, hazel eyes, multilingual, abled; interested in travel, reading, music from opera to house, and cooking; seeking disabled friend, 25-45, - especially if you are Arab, Indian or Latino. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #278.*

NY/NJ/CT. GWM 38, 6'6", 225#, dark bl/blue, spinal cord injured (SCI) using wheelchair. I'd like to meet more handsome SCI men in the 21-35 age range. Might also want to create a sexual/support/friendship/dating group for SCI guys only. Because we know how it feels - and doesn't feel. *Ed Gallagher, 60 Union Ave. #2-BB, New Rochelle, NY 10801.*

NEW YORK. GWM 40, 5'6", 138 lbs, br/br, mustache & beard. I am dyslexic and slow at getting "stuff" done - like letters, bills, and so on. I talk on the 'phone just fine. At the moment I am taking GED classes from vis ed and want to learn computer electronics. I like camping, fishing, swimming, hiking, walking the woods nude. Would like to meet friends, buddies, pen-pals. Call or write - let's get together soon. *Steven G. Nichols, POB 271, Saratoga, NY 12866, ph: (518) 581 1714.*

YOUR PHOTO GETS MINE. Goodlooking, well-built, GWM, 46, 5'8", 150 lbs, green eyes, salt & pepper crew cut, into weight-lifting, motorcycles, leather, videos, photos & my very good imagination! I am drawn to amputees & would love to hear from someone with this disability. Looking for correspondence & maybe more. *Alan Johnson, 487 East Main Street #158, Mount Kisco, NY 10549-0110.*

NEW YORK. Able bodied GWM searching for disabled and abled contacts for good conversation (by phone or letter), possible meeting and sharing mutual feelings. I am 41 years old, 5'7", dark hair, blue eyes, a professional, very preppy in appearance and dress. I am hearing impaired and wear hearing aids - but they only help to make communication better! *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #264.*

NEW YORK. GW abled Daddy Bear, 46 yrs. old, 6', 260 lbs, greying beard, moustache, cigar-smoking biker type, attracted to differences and long time disabled-aware activist. Looking to explore a long list of interests, including kinks and fetishes, with disabled/abled men who use their imaginations first and their bodies second in long, slow encounters to prove that the mind is the greatest sex toy. Non-

sexual interests include writing, theatre, design, photography. Write or call if you wannasee where our imaginations can take us... *Max E. Verga, 141 Lafayette Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11238, ph: (718) 852 1960.*

NEW YORK CITY. GWM late 30's, C5-6 quad. Interests include theatre (the field in which I work), music, reading, watching tennis, going to the movies, etc. Bright, aware, good sense of humor, good listener and not a bad talker. I used to travel but wasn't athletic/outdoorsy even in my first life. Am interested in hearing from anyone who finds this thumbnail sketch appealing/provocative and wants to know more or even maybe meet for a cuppa coffee, a Diet Coke or a glass of wine. I take mine with a straw. No rules about smoking, drinking or HIV status - I'm not your mother. Send a 'phone number; I'm lazy about typing but I love talking on the 'phone. *Andy Zerman, 300 E. 75th Street #15-O, New York, NY 10021.*

NEW YORK. 46 yo WM, physician, abled except for loss of vision in left eye since car accident. Primarily interested in hearing from an amputee guy (my first lover had this disability) for friendship and/or...I love to share New York with visitors; I enjoy opera, theater, travel, singing with NYC Gay Men's Chorus. Give a call if you're in the Big Apple! *Michael B. Gehl, 95 Horatio Street #706, New York, NY 10014, telephone: (212) 255 4140.*

NEW YORK. Gay male, 5'9", slender, athletic, active independent paraplegic, 43, academic, pleasing in person & personality. I seek contact with interested gay males. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #769.*

NEW YORK. GWM 52, 5'6", 130 lbs, bald/hazel/clean shaven, disabled, use crutches outside the house, art history major, invites interested men to conversation and anything safe and sane that follows. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #619.*

NEW YORK. GWM, abled, 36, 185, 6', very handsome: Mediterranean good looks, brown hair, eyes, clean shaven, muscular, athletic and gym-fit; looking to meet all types of physically disabled men, especially attracted to amps, paras and post-polio guys. I'm HIV- and into very hot safe sex and mutual satisfaction. Write or call: *Alex Exarchos, 135 West 79th Street, New York, NY 10024, ph (212) 595 5755.*

LONG ISLAND. GWM 46, 5'2", 125 lbs, brown hair, blue eyes, moustache, eyeglasses, considered handsome and masculine, smoker, light drinker. Interests include antiques, PBS, music, swimming, dancing, long walks. I am warm, gentle, loving and race- & handicap-friendly. I prefer you to be masculine and height/weight

proportionate and if possible from NY/LI area. Photo appreciated. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #765.*

NEW YORK. GWM 41, abled, goodlooking, short & husky, looking to make new friends, sex partners and more. I am addicted to mystery novels and video porn. Please be smart, liberal , not too serious. You can be anywhere as I travel often and widely for work. Be abled or disabled - my dearest friend is a GWM quad. *Mark Simon, 1324 Second Ave. #4C, New York, NY 10021, ph (212) 737 6685.*

NYC/VIRGINIA/DC. 20 year old abled college student seeks 18-35 gay or bi male for friendship. Disabled a plus. I have varying interests such as movies, museums, volley-ball, computers, partying and dancing, also I am masculine, discreet, easygoing, friendly - and open and flexible to new ideas. I live in NYC in the summer and I go to school in Virginia during the fall. *Paul, POB 3361, Charlottesville, VA 22903 or ph: (804) 243 1969.* Internet: pjs5w@virginia.edu

NEW YORK. Hi! My name is Doug, a GWM 46, 5'11", 165-170 lbs, HIV-, with very slight cerebral palsy. I'm looking for a guy with or without a disability in age range 36-46. After work I'm into the performing arts, concerts, ballets, opera, lectures, and so on. I do not let my handicap keep me from doing the things I like or want to do but I want to meet the right guy to fill the other void in my life. Please be disease-free and a non-smoker. If you are interested send 'phone and photo to: *POB 275, Bronx, NY 10461.*

NEW YORK. Goodlooking GWM 38, abled. Work in the arts and travel frequently. Looking for disabled male friends for fun and whatever that may lead to. Guys ages 20-50 - perhaps with wheelchair, braces, post-polio - all welcomed. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #384.*

IN THE MOUNTAINS OF NORTH CAROLINA. Able bodied 59, 6'1", 220 lbs, gray/hazel, hairy chest; Attracted to handicapped men; I'm retired & travel a great deal. Would love to hear from you wherever you are. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #508.*

OHIO. Very lonely abled gay white male, handsome, 27, 5'8" tall, brn/brn, 150 pounds, very physically fit, very loving and affectionate, always attracted to men with disabilities, seeking one male, disabled or abled, in my life for loyal, monogamous, longlasting relationship. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1152.*

OHIO. SWM, 41 years old, 140 lbs, HIV-, non-smoker and non-drug-user, drink very little, lost my right arm at the shoulder due

to a motorcycle wreck. I am a very sincere, honest and responsible person. I would like to find the same qualities in a man who would like either to have a one to one relationship with me or just to be a good friend. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #536.*

OREGON or **SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA.** Big-bear of a GWM, age 30, 6'4" and too-much-for-you-to-lift, full beard, mustache and lots of soft fur to pet, seeks a sincere - perhaps shy - GWM with a physical disability for exchange of letters, photos, Email and phone calls. I want more, but am in a transitional point in my life and can't promise where I'll be in the future. When my life settles down a bit, I will be seeking a life-mate (again). For now - let's just be friends. Have a positive attitude about life - tho' I understand the need for everyone to "vent". I like computers, music, movies, learning new things, gaining new experiences. **E-mail** me at: **TodKromer@aol.com** or send *replies with correct postage please to A-T #698.*

IN SEARCH OF ABLED LIFE MATE. Non-mainstream GWM, 51, 5'8", 145#, bl/bl, simple, quiet, honest professional, traveled performer/arts educator with very high public profile. Discreet, masculine, caring, sensitive and daring. Physical disability due to polio, use wheelchair, but not confined to it, not paralyzed. Disability does not mean dependent. If you are a 40+ vital, masculine, articulate, loving man with a sense of himself and his sexuality who understands the words *loyalty, commitment, responsibility,* and wants to share the future and a monogamous relationship with another warm and understanding man, then write to *POB 654, Emmaus, PA 18049.*

PENNSYLVANIA. GWM, 42 yrs, light brown hair, blue eyes, 6'3", T-7 para, braces, chair, active, curious, "have fun" type of guy, jeans, travel/flies/cabin - need you...Photo - tel. # get mine. Stay well. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #529.*

PENNSYLVANIA. 23 year old GWM seeks persons with disabilities for friendship. I have brown hair and eyes, stand five feet eight inches tall, weigh 110 lbs and wear glasses. I was born with mildly severe Cerebral Palsy which affects my ability to walk, my speech (although I can be understood on the phone), and bladder function. I am ambulatory, but use an electric wheelchair for long distances. Presently I am a college student in my third year at Temple University, majoring in Human Resource Administration and eventually plan to attend law school. My hobbies and interests include computers, playing chess, reading, writing, world affairs, and disability-related issues. For the past three years I have been very happily involved in a long term relationship with a man who is abled and is in his forties. Write or telephone before 10pm eastern stan-

dard time *Brian Peaceman, 352 Valley Brook Road, Apt. A-6, Ambler, PA 19002-4341,* **E-mail: b583627p@thunder.ocis.temple.edu**

PENNSYLVANIA. GWM, 40, sincere, warm, caring, intelligent, humorous, can be shy, others tell me I'm handsome, dark hair, beard/'stache, blue eyes, hairy back-butt-legs, HIV-, person with a disability, power wheelchair user, the fixed-income thing. Seek friendships, support, hugs, kissing, safe times. Enjoy computer BBS-ing, videos, music, houseplants, volunteering, hanging out on campus at University of Pennsylvania & in the botanical garden, and appreciating the great view from my secure 19th floor apartment. I don't smoke, don't use drugs, not into pain & I've no interest in sports. Write to: *Clark F., 3901 Market Street #1913, Philadelphia, PA 19104-3131.*

PENNSYLVANIA. GWM 38, helluva nice guy, 6', 190 lbs of pure pleasure. I have dark brown hair and eyes and a moustache. I remain independent despite the challenges of MS and a severe hearing loss. I've worked in finance for the past twenty years and in my spare time I collect coffee mugs and snapshots of men. During the summer I enjoy watching sunsets, some gardening, watching men on the beach and car rides. In the winter I still do the watching and riding - and spend a lot of time in front of the fireplace. I'm looking for someone special to cuddle with in front of the fire and to share my life with. I'm also looking for penpals - and when you write, please include a snapshot or two. Your sincerity is more important to me than your age or looks. Could you be the special guy that's missing from my life? C'mon, take a chance, you'll be glad you wrote. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #974.*

PENNSYLVANIA. Abled gay male, 32, wishes to meet disabled or abled gay male(s) for cultural events, travel, intimate luncheons, torrid steamy overnight/long weekend trips, or a long-term relationship. Seeking friends is a given, of course, but this 5'10", hirsute, mustached and short-bearded bear wants to meet a man with the ability to challenge me intellectually as well as sexually; a man with a strong sense of his own identity as well as an unquenchable thirst for intense, romantic, one-to-one lovemaking and a lack of fear of long-term commitment. I prefer someone in my age bracket (30 to 40-ish), but I would not turn away someone in his 20's, 40's or 50's who possesses the character traits I seek. I would also consider relocating, if the individual in question needs this as part of a commitment - all is negotiable! Are you ready for me? *Evan M. Malin, Fox Chase Station POB 24725, Philadelphia, PA 19111-0725.*

BIG WHEELS KEEP ON TURNING. Do you have dreams of having someone who is hard working, loyal, honest, caring, loving, and

has no problem being monogamous? I do too! I hold within my heart the hope and dream that, somewhere out there, there is a GWM or BiM 35 to 55, who is sincerely seeking a stable, loving and caring friendship or a one-on-one relationship. I'm a GWM 42, easily passing for early 30's, 125 lbs, bk/br, with mustache. I have a smooth, boyish swimmer's build. Being half Italian and half French I'm an incurable romantic. I love candlelight dinners, movies, the theater, picnics, letting the rain fall on me, spending time out of doors camping and at the beach, and quiet times at home cuddling. I also have a passion for art and music. Now using a wheelchair, I have turned what many see as a handicap into a positive force of strength and many possibilities. So, if you are looking for a man who is real and who will be by your side through the bad as well as the good times, then either write or call - *Stefano, 211 Shannon Street, Gaston, SC 29053-9136, ph (803) 791 1637* - and let's see what happens.

TEXAS. Articulate, creative, gay Hispanic male, para, 36, 5'8", 160, honest, goodlooking, workout boy, passionate, only semi-cynical, seeks friendship and possible relationship with together GWM/GLatinM 25+, masculine, in-shape, drug- and disease-free, easy to look at soulmate who enjoys a great cup of Java and a classic foreign film. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1083.*

TEXAS. GWM 54, 5'8", 146#, abled, HIV-, not turned on by disability but not turned off either. High school classmate was paraplegic, fellow worker in college had cerebral palsy, father was amputee, and good friend in grad. school had to have colostomy. I have many interests ranging from railroading to impressionist art. Penpals to relationship, whatever... *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #828.*

TEXAS NORTH EAST. GWM, 57, 5'10", 165#, blond hair, blue eyes, wear glasses, nice-looking, disease-free, gym-going in good shape former forrester/logger living in a small country town; I am masculine, sincere, affectionate and very sexual; I enjoy fishing, hunting, camping, gardening and more. I am seeking a one-on-one relationship with a younger man, attractive, slender/trim, clean, intelligent, disease-free, affectionate, loyal honest and very sexual, a guy who is honestly looking for an older man. My limitations are a congenital visual problem, which impairs my ability to drive in and travel to cities, but not much else; also a work-related back injury which prevents me from doing heavy lifting. I am open to the possibility of relocation. Your photo and 'phone # gets mine. *J. D., POB 221, Royse City, TX 75189.*

TEXAS. GWM 45 years old, 5'6", 138 pounds, blond (balding), hazel eyes (glasses), clean-shaven with mustache, lite body hair,

cute butt, HIV-. Lonely, home-loving and honest. Pleasures: lounging, body rubs, and everything sexual. Let's get together. *R. M. Witt, POB 2733, Dallas, TX 75221-2733 or ph: (214) 821 0123.*

TEXAS. GWM 48, br/hazel, 5'1", 131 lbs, HIV neg. Looking for a friendship, mutual support, perhaps love, lots of cuddling, safe sex, giggles, nonsense and what - but no wedding rings. Letters and long distance are for getting acquainted, not penpaling - if something clicks, let's plan to meet asap. I'm handsome, mischievously sexual, fit compassionate, but irreverent, and I try valiantly never to take myself too seriously. I have scoliosis (spine curves to right) and an underdeveloped left shoulder from old polio, also slight, seasonal asthma. I teach at a community college. I like old R&R, big band, jazz & classical music (Boccherini, at this writing), astrology (a student of 20 years), museums, art, UFO stuff, *Unsolved Mysteries, X Files,* antiques, bookstores, low fat dining, light exercise, Monopoly, Scrabble and old b&w movies. Be a drug & disease free non-smoker, able to travel (but not necessarily all the way to Texas), - sensitive, fun, fit within your ability, not afraid to try things you haven't, politely & gleefully challenging to authority, a polio survivor, an amputee, or even physically normal. Photo gets mine. *Billy Roberts, 1601 Faro Drive #602, Austin, TX 78741, ph: 512 385 8313.*

VIRGINIA. My name is Edmond J. Turner. I have cerebral palsy and use a power chair for mobility. I am a white single gay male. I have dark brown hair, dark brown eyes, am moderately hairy, 5'3" tall, and weigh around 150 lbs. I am employed at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) as a Training Associate Supervisor at the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (RRTC) on Supported Employment. I enjoy going to the gay bars/clubs, enjoy dining out, enjoy dancing, enjoy going to movies and concerts, enjoy most types of music, and enjoy shopping. Cruising is my favorite pastime. I also like some sports, especially Pro-Football, Baseball and beach Volleyball. I like the beach as well as the mountains, nature, animals, and just life itself! Also I enjoy the nudist lifestyle when I'm home. Let's get together and see what happens. If you are interested in getting together for an initial date, please call me! I am hot and horny! *Edmond J. Turner, 300 West Franklin Street, #103-W, Richmond, VA 23220, telephone # (804) 643 1410 after 7pm or at weekends.*

VIRGINIA. GWM, 54, 5'8" 150#, brown/blue; diagnosis - MS (still not definite); symptoms - walking difficulty, bladder and sexual dysfunction; personal interests - history, movies, trains, gay male erotica. I plan to relocate back to Cleveland in a few years and I am especially interested in hearing from A-T subscribers in NE Ohio. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #617.*

VERMONT. Disability-aware abled mature GWM, turned on to that special gay guy who would like a safe monogamous but adventurous sexual relationship. I have a small country house and a life to share with that special, different lover who likes dogs, cats and some real farm animals. I am on a search for mystical Truth, not in terms of a theological position, but as the Unity of all life. Sounds scary? Let me hear from you and let's search together and start with discovering each other, that will be exciting not scary! I am 5'11", 150#, brown hair - but very thin on top, trimmed gray beard, a few aches and pains but nothing serious. I get along happily with not much money. I work very lightly at my antiques business, and would welcome an interested guy to work with. Be any age, color, ethnicity, preferably a non-smoker. Photo appreciated if you write. *Richard Phelps, RR #1 - Box 710, East Dorset, VT 05253-9708.*

LET'S HIT THE WOODS CAMPING. GWM 31, seeking friends for fun and possible relationship. I'm 5'6", 180#, br/br, 'stache and goatee; after a badly broken leg I have a permanent limp and walk with a cane. I am a licensed nurse's aide and very disabled-aware. You are likely to be 30's, honest, caring, HIV-, monogamous, enjoy country living, able to relocate, no drugs or bars, ability/disability unimportant. I will answer all who write (with photo if you can). *Joe, POB 283, Rutland, VT 05702-0283.*

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON. GWM 39, height-weight-proportionate, abled, would like to correspond and meet with male who is an amputee. I am sensitive, spiritual, humorous, independent, laid-back. I enjoy reading, talking, sight-seeing, visiting. I am interested in you for your entire self, with your unique variety of traits, interests and identity. Please write and let's begin to learn about each other. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #308.*

SLEEPLESS IN SEATTLE. I know there is a great guy out there looking for someone special! I'm *not* looking for Mr. Right Away but I am truly interested in connecting with someone who is good to himself and those that he holds dear. My last relationship was with a partner of eleven years. Three years have passed and I know I'm ready and able to date again. This GWM is 39 yo, 165 lbs, 6'2", brown hair, blue/green eyes. I have two different types of muscular dystrophy. I can't even pronounce it but I have had the disability all my life. It has provided a few challenges but nothing I can't overcome. I work in the computer field and have traveled over 12,000 miles in the last three months with my new job. What preferences do I have? GWM, 25-48, height/weight proportionate, smooth or lightly hairy, with a good sense of humor. It doesn't matter to me if you have a disability, small stature, small cock, or what type of job you have as

long as you are happy with what you do. I use an electric wheelchair to get around but work out at the college, travel, theater, dining out, concerts, computers, etc. Give me a call, I would love to talk to you. *Dan, POB 20549, Seattle, WA 98102, ph: (206) 323 6969.*

1996 PARALYMPICS. Abled GWM, 23, 6', 195lbs, searching for amputee or paraplegic male for friendship and possible long-term relationship. I am a handsome, intelligent (and immodest!) recent college graduate who enjoys international and adventurous travel, scuba diving and disabled sports (such as road racing). Please send a letter and mailing address along with a telephone number and a photo if you have one. Also, anyone interested in attending the Paralympic Games with me in Atlanta, GA on August 16th-27th, 1996, please respond or contact me for more information. *Alexander Jones, POB C-254, Concord College, Athens, WV 24712.*

CANADA

NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA. Abled GWM 36, compassionate, wishing to find a person to share with. Your personality, your determination to live a good life in spite of disability, is what counts for me, not the nature of your disability.Looking for friends between 18 and 40 years old. I am also looking for the special guy to live with: together we'll both be better off, emotionally, physically, financially. *Replies with correct international postage please to A-T #226.*

VANCOUVER, BC. Hi! I'm a GWM interested in meeting new people, either on a friendship level, or dating - with hopes of it developing into a long term relationship with the right person. I've been told I'm not bad to look at and appear younger than my 31 years. I'm 5'8", 135 lbs, with brown hair and eyes. I have an invisible disability called fibromyalgia. This mainly manifests as muscle and joint pain in my legs, which can limit the amount of walking I'm able to do in a day. Symptoms can range from barely noticeable to uncomfortable. I eat well, do yoga and work out a couple of times a week. I'm somewhat Bohemian. I like music from funk/soul and garage/house through to Joni Mitchell, Laurie Anderson and ambient stuff. Currently a student living in Vancouver, Canada - and contemplating relocation. Previously worked in fashion and commercial photography in London, England. An industry full of stress and nastiness - don't miss it much, but do miss "The Big City" sometimes. I have access to almost free worldwide flights and would love to visit others who are sincere, authentic and humorful. Write me at: *Andrew Jack, 2170 Wall Street, Vancouver, BC, V5L 1B5 CANADA.*

CANADA, TORONTO. GWM 38, abled, 5'6", well built husky stature, br/hazel, trim beard/'stache, masculine, HIV neg. With a Franciscan spirituality I enjoy most of what life has to offer: making friends, outdoor activities, travel, history, museums, cooking, dining out, quiet evenings, sunrises and sunsets, music, animals and more. I am attracted to blue-collar appearances like workboots, hi-top running shoes and Levi 501's, to long hair and to tallness, also to men with leg braces or prostheses (esp. b/e hooks) - a previous friendship with a man who is an amputee was a very positive experience which I would like to repeat. I am seeking to develop and sustain real friendships with disabled men 18-42 years who live life to its fullest potential. Perhaps you are active in disabled sports, outdoor activities; above all you possess a strong self-awareness, have a realistic approach to life and are willing to invest into a face to face friendship. Penpals ok, all replies will be promptly answered, photo (returnable) and phone appreciated. Write soon, eh? *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #316.*

CANADA. I am a dignified single gay retired bookkeeper, 61 years of age with a good sense of humour. Non-smoker. 5'10". 135 lbs. (How much does a leg weigh?) I value honesty, integrity and gentleness. Being independent I pay attention to my physical and emotional well being. Working with limited funds is a creative progress for me. I am active and fit, enjoying walks, swimming and downhill skiing. At home you will find me listening to classical music (opera in particular). Because I love cooking I often have small dinner parties. I lost my left leg due to a train accident when I was four years old. For mobility I use crutches, at home I rely on my artificial leg for support (it's more practical although I am a great hopper). I am looking for a gay, able, non-smoker who I can ask to help me with what I cannot do myself, i.e. carrying my ski equipment, but not someone to nurse me - remember I am independent! However I have a great need of TLC, someone I can feel close to! Someone mature - regardless of age - someone who is fit and who shares - if not all - some of my interests. Please write me: *Christian Brix, 1655 Barclay Street #1504, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, V6G 2Y1. Fax: (604) 685-5065.* **e-mail: cbrix@freenet. vancouver.bc.ca**

CANADA. My name is Donald MacMillan. I was badly brain-damaged in a truckmobile accident almost 20 years ago. I have worked hard at getting my life into order over the last 20 years and feel like I am 90% there. I am lonely and would like pen pals. I'd appreciate a picture and will send one in return. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1003.*

UNITED KINGDOM

ENGLAND (SOUTH). Hi there! I'm an English GWM, 42, 6'2", 160 lbs, seeking friendships, exchanges and hopefully an intimate relationship. I'm polio-disabled but fully mobile and independent. I'm straight-acting, masculine, caring, loving and affectionate; also unselfish, loyal and dependable. I'm into travel, music, socializing and more. Am relaxed, easy-going, open-minded. Live on the south coast about two hours from London in a wheelchair-friendly bungalow. I welcome houseguests; speak German, French, basic Spanish. Hope to hear from you real soon. *Paul Williams, 4 Dawn Close, Ensbury Park, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH10 4BL, UK, ph: (UK) 1202 548669.*

NORTH-EAST ENGLAND. Slim, handsome, 34 year-old Bi tetraplegic male, psychology graduate, into escaping the 'rat-race', travel, healthy food, truth seeking, computers, being naked among nature, especially during thunder storms, and anything alternative. I'm happily married to bi pixie earth girl but need to explore and express a part of my self and my sexuality which has been suppressed and hidden for too long. We plan to travel Europe for one year, setting off this summer, with the hope of buying land, maybe starting a commune or co-op type of living with compatible other/s. I would like to correspond or meet with anyone reading this, bi or gay, with/without a disability, who feels attracted/connected to me. I am also looking for a live-in carer, salary to be arranged. ALA, photo appreciated. *Replies with correct international postage please to A-T #562.*

YORKSHIRE, ENGLAND. Paraplegic male interested to hear from other gay men for correspondence/connection/whatever follows. *Replies with correct international postage please to A-T #1115.*

LONDON, ENGLAND. My name is Peter. I am German, abled, living in London, 34 years old, tall and muscular, looking for amputees for friendship; hopefully visiting in USA or UK. I don't think of your disability as a handicap. I am professional, versatile, positive-thinking. I like traveling, working out, scuba diving, swimming, clubbing, movies, etc. *Peter Leffek, 54 Newbery House, Northampton Street, London N1 2HX, United Kingdom.*

LONDON, ENGLAND. 31 yrs; only recently a paraplegic (1985). I've got a good athletic body as I've played rugby before. Still play sports and go to gym. Like eating out, coffee, meals in on a romantic scale. Like to meet others interested. I live in England, London, but travel to SF and all California three to four times a year for four to six weeks at a time. *Jeff French, 19 Navigator Drive, Windmill Park, Middlesex, UB2 4US, United Kingdom. Telephone 011 44 - 0181 571 6462.*

ENGLAND, MIDLANDS. GWM 43, abled, fit, short beard, light hair, blue eyes, muscular, with a hairy body. I would like to meet a gay male with a physical disability, perhaps a guy who is paraplegic. I prefer you be a non-smoker and scrupulously clean; I also tend to find the following features appealing - beards, moustaches, glasses, long hair, hairiness, body piercings. Please write - preferably with photo - and let's begin to find out about each other. *Colin Garner, 30 Muncaster Gardens, East Hunsbury, Northampton, NN4 0XH, UK.*

SOUTH ENGLAND. Visually impaired gay white British male, 53, 5'9", 210 lbs, stocky bear-type, hairy, salt 'n' pepper beard. Interests include most of the arts, painting and sketching, travel, countryside wildlife, swimming, rambling with my dog. Would love to hear from other laid-back, like-minded guys; your photo gets mine. Write soon! *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1080.*

MIDLANDS, ENGLAND. Middle-aged male, T12-L1 paraplegic, semi-retired businessman. I'm a man who prefers men. I am not closeted and at the same time not "out" as I cannot see the point in it. I'm definitely a non-scene type of guy. I work out three times a week, love swimming and have a pool in my home in Spain. I live 50 miles north of London. My favorite hobby is traveling, mainly to Third World countries. I speak Spanish and French as well as English. I am seriously trying to meet someone who will be willing to make friends initially, then - who knows? *Replies with correct international postage please to A-T #1108.*

ENGLAND (SOUTH). Tony, businessman, 51, 5'9", 155 lbs, abled, fairly fit, play some sports, like eating out, theatre, all types of music, and I especially enjoy motoring and travel. I will be happy to hear from any man who feels drawn to my ad. For myself I am drawn to men who are amputees; I feel shy about saying this yet really hopeful. I love talking on the 'phone as I feel it's more personal than writing - but in the first please write *with correct postage to A-T #752.*

REST OF THE WORLD

AMERICAS/ELSEWHERE. 40 year old Jewish-Italian male, post-polio, bilateral leg braces, 5'3", 115 lbs, swimmer's upper body, dark br/hazel eyes, clean shaven. I live in Guatemala but travel often to US, Europe, elsewhere. I am looking for companionship, hot sex, long-term relationship or traveling buddy. I prefer someone my age or younger, on the short side and trim. Your photo gets mine. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1163, or ph: (international access code)-502-2-633689.*

ABLE-TOGETHER
SUBSCRIPTION AND PERSONAL CONTACT AD INFORMATION

When you decide to become a full-year subscriber to A-T you have a choice of either starting your subscription with the current issue or the next issue. Because your ad (if you submit one) will only be published wh*ilst your subscription is active* **this choice affects the number of times your ad will appear!** This means that if you want your ad to be published four times during your first year with A-T *you must specify that you want your subscription to start with the* ***next*** *issue and your subscription payment and ad must be received by us* ***before*** *the deadline for that issue.*

DEADLINES: ABLE-TOGETHER needs your ad copy **before the 1st of the month of the issue the ad is to appear in.** New, renewed or changed ads reaching us after April 1st, July 1st, etc., are not guaranteed to appear in the issue published at the end of that month. We will try, but no promises.

If you want your subscription to start with the issue **currently on-sale**, this will result in your ad being published no more than three times during your first year's subscription. If you choose to send us your personal contact ad request form at some time after you send in your subscription form, this may result in your ad being published fewer than four, or even fewer than three times during your first year's subscription.

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We invite you now to complete the subscription order form and personal contact ad request form on the next page and send them to:

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REMEMBER,

WHETHER YOU MEET OUR DEADLINES AND WHETHER YOU CHOOSE TO BEGIN YOUR SUBSCRIPTION WITH THE CURRENT OR THE NEXT ISSUE WILL AFFECT HOW MANY TIMES WE PUBLISH YOUR AD IN YOUR FIRST YEAR WITH A-T.

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(We recommend box #-coded ads unless you have a post office box address.)

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Please publish the following ad for as long as my subscription to A-T remains active:

(Please include name, address and phone number as you want it to appear in the ad. Attach a separate sheet if necessary.)

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I would like my subscription to start with the: ___ current issue ___ next issue.

Please check the amount enclosed *(includes a personal contact ad)*:

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1/96

ABLE-TOGETHER is published and mailed to subscribers at the *end* of the months of January, April, July and October; A-T is also available for purchase at certain gay/progressive bookstores across the US and in the UK.

ABLE-TOGETHER seeks to discuss current disability issues from a perspective which emphasizes the generation of positive-feeling in interpersonal relationships. Subscribers to A-T are encouraged to contribute letters, opinions and articles.

ABLE-TOGETHER is news: A-T has been written up in *New Mobility*, in the newsletters of the American Association of Physicians for Human Rights and of the Boston Information Center for Individuals with Disabilities, as well as in local and regional gay newspapers such as the *San Francisco Bay Area Reporter* and *All Points North* in the UK. A-T is also politics and history and our subscribers include the World Institute on Disability in Oakland, California, the Homodok Archives in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, the Danish Stop-AIDS Campaign and the Gay and Lesbian Historical Society in San Francisco.

ABLE-TOGETHER applies subscription, sales and donation revenues to production, advertising and outreach costs. A-T's international outreach program includes sending informational materials to independent living centers and distributing flyers to the disabled students' programs and the gay and lesbian students' associations of colleges in the US, Canada and the UK; A-T advertises in US regional gay newspapers, and nationally in *New Mobility*, *Advocate Classifieds* and the *Disability Rag*. A-T welcomes suggestions from subscribers on outreach policy.

ABLE-TOGETHER full-year subscribers *only* may submit a personal contact ad for publication for as long as the subscription is active; ads may be box#-coded for privacy; changes and updates to ads are encouraged; A-T reserves the right to edit ads for length and content.

ABLE-TOGETHER has a bookstore single issue cover price of US**$5**/UK**£4**; the cost for a full year's postal subscription of four issues, inclusive of a personal contact ad listing at no additional charge, is US**$30**/UK**£24**; this is reduced to US**$15** /UK**£12** for persons with low incomes.

ABLE-TOGETHER's voice-mail telephone numbers are your line to us, whether you have a specific question or, by generating personal contact, just to get a better feel of what A-T is about; ***keep in touch with us!***

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